

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 IGA-02 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

AGR-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 RSR-01 /173 W

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P 011050Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2371

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 7876

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, CB 7H

SUBJ: RICE FOR CAMBODIA

REFS: (A) STATE 150570 (B) BANGKOK 11766

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF SONEXIM SENDING REPRESENTATIVE TO BANGKOK TO ARRANGE FOR SHIPMENT OF RICE WITH LY KIM HENG WHO IS OF THE OPINION THAT NO USEFUL PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED BY GOING TO BANGKOK AT THIS TIME. LY KIM HENG IS CONVINCED THAT THAI SHIP COMPANY DOES NOT HAVE VESSELS AVAILABLE AND UNDERSTANDS THAT THAIS NETOTIATING FOR ONE SHIP THAT IS PRESENTLY IN PHNOM PENH. LY KIM HENG BELIVES THAT HE CAN ADEQUATELY MONITOR SITUATION FROM PHNOM PENH PARTICULARLY AS SELECTION OF VESSELS IS IN THE HANDS OF THAI SHIP COMPANY. WE ARE INCLINED TO DEFER TO LY KIM HENG'S JUDGMENT ON THESE MATTERS AND BELIEVE THAT THE SAME RATIONALE WOULD APPLY TO SENDING ONE OF OUR OWN STAFF TO BANGKOK.

2. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, LY KIM HENG INSISTS THAT LETTER OF CREDIT IS IN ORDER. HE IS IRRITATED BY A SERIES OF MINOR MODIFICATIONS REQUESTED BY THE THAIS BUT HAS RESPONDED TO EACH REQUEST. HE PERSONALLY BELIEVES THAT THE REPEATED CHANGES REPRESENT DELAYING TACTICS ON THE PART OF THE THAIS. THE LATEST KYANGE RECEIVED THIS MORNING REQUESTS THAT THE LETTER OF CREDIT ES CONFIRMED THROUGH A LOCAL THAI
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BANK, A MODIFICATION THAT LY KIM HENG CONSIDERS NOT AT ALL

NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE.

3. IN THE MEANWHILE LON NOL'S REPRESENTATIVE, THAPPANA NGINN, IS PREPARING TO GO TO BANGKOK FOR HIS VISIT. THERE CONTINUES TO BE REPORTS OF PRIVATE "DEALS", HOWEVER, INVOLVING THE THAI AMBASSADOR IN PHNOM PENH, A PRIVATE KHMER BUSINESSMAN, AND A MR. SUCHART KARDPHOL OF 1037 PLOEN CHIT ARCADE, BANGKOK. THE LATTER HAS JUST WRITTEN A LETTER TO LY KIM HENG, LON NOL AND OTHER GKR OFFICIALS CLAIMING THAT THE HAS ARRANGED FOR THE EXPORT OF 40,000 M/T OF THAI RICE TO CAMBODIA AND ASKING THAT THE GKR AUTHORIZE HIM AND A LOCAL KHMER BUSINESSMAN TO MAKE THE PURCHASE. IN OUR DISCUSSION WITH THE GKR WE HAVE CONTINUED TO STRESS THAT A GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT PURCHASE IS PREFERABLE BUT IN ANY EVENT ANY SALE IN ORDER TO BE REIMBURSED BY THE U.S. WOULD HAVE TO BE (A) A LEGAL EXPORT FROM THAILAND AND (B) APPROVED FOR PRICE BY AID/W.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PL 480, RICE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PHNOM07876
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS ENDERS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730865/aaaabvly.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 (A) STATE 150570 (B) BANGKOK 1176, 6
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Nov-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <03-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RICE FOR CAMBODIA
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005